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EXAMINER

POLLACK, MELVIN H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2141

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4

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

22

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/669,819

Applicant(s)

VETRIVELKUMARAN ET AL.

Examiner

Melvin H Pollack

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 September 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 September 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☒ Other: *see attached office action*.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-5, 7, 10, 11, 14-19, 23-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson, II et al. (6,397,245) in view of Chen et al. (6,021,437).
4. For claim 1, Johnson teaches a method (see abstract) for updating (col. 1, lines 10-11) a client computer (Fig. 1, 12; Fig. 6, 102) coupled by means of a network (Fig. 1, 18) to a server computer (Fig. 1, 26) comprising:
 - a. Transmitting a status message by means of the network between the server computer and the client computer regarding a change of status (Fig. 6B; esp 130-150 communications) of the server computer (see below);
 - b. Displaying a message at the client computer to appraise a user that a status has changed (Fig. 5); and
 - c. Initiating a communications between the client computer and the server computer over the network to inform the client computer regarding details of the change of status in the server computer (col. 2, lines 20-30).

5. Johnson does not expressly disclose that the status of a server is taken. However, it is clear that the status may be taken regarding a wide variety of problems involving any machine on the network (Fig. 2). The examiner interprets this to mean that the status of the network server may also be determined, i.e. for troubleshooting network and security problems. At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have allowed Johnson to view a server in order to troubleshoot certain well-known problems such as network connectivity (col. 1, lines 49-60).

6. Johnson does not expressly disclose changing a status of a server computer. Chen teaches a real-time monitoring system (abstract) that specifically checks the status and behavior of a server (col. 2, lines 30-50; col. 13, lines 5-15). It is obvious in this that the status of the server may be changed, i.e. a connection failure. Chen further provides that the status of a server may be changed deliberately, i.e. through an upgrade (col. 2, lines 64-67). At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have added the changing of a status computer, and the checking thereof, to determine if items were okay after an upgrade (col. 1, lines 50-55).

7. For claim 2, Johnson does not expressly disclose the changing of server computer status by means of software running on a client computer coupled to the server computer by means of the network. Chen provides this limitation as well (col. 11, line 49 – col. 12, line 40). At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have used Chen's server process to automatically solve server problems from the location (col. 12, lines 20-25).

8. For claim 3, Johnson does not expressly disclose the step of transmitting a status message is performed in response to periodic polling of the server status by the client computer. Chen

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provides a periodic polling of a server (col. 2, lines 40-51). At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have used Chen's polling system in order to solve Johnson's dilemma of providing status changes over time (col. 2, lines 9-20).

9. For claim 4, Johnson does not expressly disclose that the server computer performs the step of transmitting a status message by sending an alert message to the client computer regarding the change of server status. Chen teaches this component as well (col. 6, lines 49-54; col. 7, lines 50-65). At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have used a Chen alert in a Johnson system so that an administrator could determine that a problem existed in a more timely and automatic fashion.

10. For claim 5, Johnson teaches that there are a plurality of client computers coupled to the server computer by means of the network (Fig. 1, #14, #16, #20, etc.) and wherein the server computer broadcasts an updated server status to each of the client computers (col. 7, lines 60-65).

11. For claim 7, Johnson teaches that the server computer includes a client interface component for allowing the client computer read only access to a status of the server computer while determining a change of status of the server computer (col. 9, lines 14-26).

12. For claim 10, Johnson teaches a method (see abstract) for updating (col. 1, lines 10-11) a client computer (Fig. 1, 12) coupled by means of a network (Fig. 1, 18) to a server appliance (Fig. 1, 26) comprising:

- a. Presenting a status message in response to a change in status of the server appliance by means of the network interface of the server appliance (Fig. 6B, see claim 1 discussion) to alert one or more client computers connected to the network (see claim 4 discussion) that there has been a change of status of the server appliance (Fig. 6B); and

- b. Responding to a receipt of the status update request message (Figs 2-4) from the one or more clients (col. 6, lines 24-40) by sending a network message to a client computer to appraise a client computer regarding a change of status of the server appliance by exposing an upgraded status of the server appliance to said client computer to inform the client computer regarding details of the change of status in the server appliance (col. 9, lines 14-30).
13. For claim 11, Johnson teaches the step of initiating the changing of the status of the server alliance in response to a request from an administrator having administrator status on a client computer coupled to the server appliance by means of the network (col. 6, line 9).
14. Claim 14 is drawn to the limitations in claim 7. Therefore, since claim 7 is rejected, claim 14 is also rejected for the reasons above.
15. Claim 15 is drawn to a hardware system that implements the method drawn in claims 1 and 7. It is well known in the art that a system implementation is functionally equivalent to the underlying method. Therefore, since claims 1 and 7 are rejected, claim 15 is also rejected for the reasons above. A teaching that shows the functional equivalence will be included upon request.
16. For claim 16, Johnson teaches that the communications component is a DCOM server component having an interface exposed to a DCOM client residing on the one or more client computers (Fig. 6, 134).
17. Claims 17-19 are drawn to a software system that implements the method drawn in claims 1-3, respectively. It is well known in the art that a system implementation is functionally equivalent to the underlying method. Therefore, since claims 1-3 are rejected, claims 17-19 are

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also rejected for the reasons above. A teaching that shows the functional equivalence will be included upon request.

18. Claims 23-25 are drawn to a software system that implements the method drawn in claims 10, 11, and 14, respectively. It is well known in the art that a system implementation is functionally equivalent to the underlying method. Therefore, since claims 10, 11, and 14 are rejected, claims 23-25 are also rejected for the reasons above. A teaching that shows the functional equivalence will be included upon request.

19. Claims 6, 12, 13, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson and Chen as applied to claims 1-5, 7, 10, 11, 14-19, 23-25 above, and further in view of Kenner et al. (6,314,565).

20. For claim 6, Johnson teaches that the details in the change in status of the server computer includes a list of updated server computer status features (Fig. 5), but does not expressly disclose additionally comprising the step of displaying said list of updated server features and a then current status of said features for the client computer to aid a user in updating the client computer status. Chen does not expressly disclose the later limitations. Kenner teaches a method (see abstract) in which a server is upgraded and a client subsequently needs to be upgraded as a result (col. 3, lines 54-67). In this, a client displays a list of updated service features (col. 4, lines 4-53) and then determines the current status of the client (col. 4, lines 53-55) for comparison (col. 4, lines 55-65). At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have used a Kenner system in Johnson in order to download fixes in times when server upgrades cause problems for clients (col.3, lines 5-20).

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21. For claim 12, Johnson and Chen do not expressly disclose that the client computer responds to the communications between the client computer and the server appliance by a step of displaying a user interface that allows the user to selectively update the client to match a changed status of the server appliance. Kenner teaches this limitation (col. 4, line 58 – col. 5, line 7 and col. 7, lines 48-49).

22. Claim 13 is drawn to the limitations in claim 6. Therefore, since claim 6 is rejected, claim 13 is also rejected for the reasons above.

23. Claim 20 is drawn to a software system that implements the method drawn in claim 6. It is well known in the art that a system implementation is functionally equivalent to the underlying method. Therefore, since claim 6 is rejected, claim 20 is also rejected for the reasons above. A teaching that shows the functional equivalence will be included upon request.

24. Claims 8, 9, 21, 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson and Chen as applied to claims 1-5, 7, 10, 11, 14-19, 23-25 above, and further in view of DeKoning et al. (6,480,955).

25. For claim 8, Johnson and Chen do not expressly disclose automatically reconfiguring the client computer based on the details of the change of status in the server computer. DeKoning teaches a method (see abstract) of remote system monitoring and reconfiguration (col. 1, lines 24-30) in which the server automatically manages changes to the client computers (col. 2, lines 35-50). At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have used a DeKoning automatic reconfiguration system to fulfill Johnson's goal of making administration

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more user-friendly (Johnson, col. 1, line 60 – col. 2, line 5) by providing a system that is easier to manage (DeKoning, col. 2, lines 1-11).

26. For claim 9, Johnson and Chen do not expressly disclose displaying a message at the client computer that a status of the client computer has automatically been reconfigured based on the change of status of the server computer. DeKoning teaches this limitation as well (col. 2, lines 50-55). At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would added a DeKoning status update to Johnson's system because users expect to see system updates (col. 1, lines 51-55).

27. Claims 21 and 22 are drawn to a software system that implements the method drawn in claims 8 and 9, respectively. It is well known in the art that a system implementation is functionally equivalent to the underlying method. Therefore, since claims 8 and 9 are rejected, claims 21 and 22 are also rejected for the reasons above. A teaching that shows the functional equivalence will be included upon request.

28. Claim 26-32 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson and Chen as applied to claims 1-5, 7, 10, 11, 14-19, 23-25 above, and further in view of Reha et al. (6,282,709).

29. For claim 26, Johnson teaches that for use with a computer having a graphical user interface including a display (Fig. 2-5) and a user interface selection device (col. 6, lines 11-14), a method (see abstract) of updating a configuration of the computer (col. 1, lines 10-11) by means of computer setup wizard (col. 9, lines 14-26) which comprises the steps of:

- a. Displaying an interface link that can be actuated with an interface selection device (col. 6, lines 5-15) to launch the computer setup wizard (col. 6, lines 24-40) in response to receipt of message from the network server that a server configuration has changed (Fig. 7, check node installation);
- b. Communicating with the server (Fig. 6A) to determine an updated status of the server computer (Fig. 6B) and displaying a list of client reconfiguration choices based on the updated status (Fig. 5);
- c. Allowing a user to accept or modify the solutions to the problem (col. 7, lines 30-35).

30. Johnson does not expressly disclose updating a configuration in response to a reconfiguration of a network server. Chen teaches this limitation, as shown in the claim 1 discussion. At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have combined the two inventions for the reasons provided in the claim 1 discussion.

31. Johnson and Chen do not expressly disclose providing a command button which when actuated by the user begins the process of reconfiguring the client computer based upon the list of client reconfiguration choices. Reha teaches a method (see abstract) of monitoring a server (Fig. 2) and reconfiguring the client in response to said changes (col. 1, lines 50-65) in which command buttons are provided (Fig. 4) which when actuated by the user begin the process of reconfiguring the client computer (Fig. 5). At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have added this selection ability to Johnson in order to allow users to download changes that they feel comfortable making (col. 1, lines 45-49).

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32. For claim 27, Johnson and Chen do not expressly disclose that a list of checkboxes are presented on the display which allow the user to select desired client reconfigurations from the list of client configurations. Reha teaches this limitation (col. 6, lines 32-38; col. 7, lines 20-30; col. 8, lines 5-10; col. 9, lines 30-55). At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have added these checkboxes to Johnson because there may be times when users do not wish to add specific components (col. 8, lines 5-10).

33. For claim 28, Johnson and Chen do not expressly disclose that the checkboxes have an initial state of being either checked or unchecked based on a sensed configuration of the server computer. Reha teaches that the selected components are at least partially based on how well the server configuration matches the client configuration (col. 9, lines 33-60). At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have added these checkboxes to Johnson because they would have assumed an unsophisticated user (col. 1, lines 30-35) and desired to help the user determine which components to download (col. 7, lines 59-65).

34. For claim 29, Johnson teaches that at least one checkbox relates to a disk drive configuration on the client for sharing access to a disk drive on the network (Fig. 2, 161).

35. For claim 30, Johnson teaches that at least one checkbox relates to adding shared Internet access through a server connection to the Internet by means of communications with the server over a network (Fig. 2, 161).

36. For claim 31, Johnson teaches that at least one checkbox relates to adding secure access to services of the server from the client computer by means of network password protection (Fig. 2, 162).

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37. For claim 32, Johnson teaches that at least one checkbox relates to a printer reconfiguration on the client computer based on a presence of a printer coupled to a network (Fig. 2, 163).

Conclusion


38. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melvin H Pollack whose telephone number is (703) 305-4641. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharia can be reached on (703) 305-4003. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3800.

MHP
27 January 2004


RUPAL DHARIA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER